

LUZERNE COUNTY

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #4

**DATE:** Thursday, September 10, 2020  
5:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Emergency Management Building  
185 Water Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

PROJECT ENGINEER:

John J. Wood, P.E.  
Senior Managing Engineer  
Barton & Loguidice  
3901 Hartzdale Drive  
Suite 101  
Camp Hill, PA 17011-7843

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Eddie O'Neill** - Luzerne County Operations

**Beth DeNardi** - Luzerne County Recycling Coordinator

**Butch Frati** - Wilkes-Barre City Director of Operations

**Tom Kashatus** - Newport Township, Private Citizen

**Ryan Longfoot** - Dallas Area Municipal Authority

**Palmira Miller** - Newport Township Community Organization,  
Private Citizen

\*Meeting reported and transcribed by  
Angela Sallemi, RPR, CRR

1 MR. WOOD: Hi. My name is John Wood. I'm  
2 with the engineering firm Barton & Loguidice, and we  
3 prepared the Solid Waste Management Plan for Luzerne  
4 County. Worked with Beth and Eddie for the  
5 preparation of that. And, obviously, with you folks  
6 as the appointed SWAC members in the preparation of  
7 the plan.

8 Since there's no one else here today, I  
9 don't think we need to regurgitate what we've already  
10 talked about and what we've already presented. Beth  
11 and I were talking, it may be better just to continue  
12 the conversations that we were having. If members of  
13 the public show up, we'll entertain their thoughts and  
14 their questions.

15 MS. DeNARDI: I'd like to go around the room  
16 so that everybody can say who is here, who they're  
17 representing, so we have it on record.

18 Beth DeNardi, Luzerne County Recycling  
19 Coordinator.

20 MS. MILLER: Palmira Miller, recently  
21 retired from Tech but still with Keep Northeastern PA  
22 Beautiful and also Newport Township Community  
23 Organization.

24 MR. KASHATUS: Tom Kashatus, Newport  
25 Township.

1 MR. LONGFOOT: Ryan Longfoot with Dallas  
2 Area Municipal Authority.

3 MR. O'NEILL: Eddie O'Neill, Luzerne County  
4 Operations.

5 MR. FRATI: Butch Frati, Director of  
6 Operations for the City of Wilkes-Barre.

7 MS. DeNARDI: Okay. That's everybody.

8 MR. WOOD: So let's talk about the plan, the  
9 process. So we've had a draft plan. It's been  
10 advertised. It's been out for about 70 days.

11 MS. DeNARDI: Yes, about that.

12 MR. WOOD: So it's a 90-day review period,  
13 and that review period ends October 6th. So we still  
14 may receive comments from municipalities between now  
15 and then. But on October 6th, that will be 90 days  
16 where we've had it advertised for the public, as well  
17 as advertised or noticed all of the municipalities  
18 within the county. So that's where we are in the  
19 process.

20 Following that, we were talking about in  
21 later October, we had tentative SWAC meeting on  
22 October 21st. We'll be glad to meet with you, but if  
23 we don't have any comments, I'm not sure if we would  
24 still want to hold the SWAC meeting. We'll let that  
25 up to Beth to work with the SWAC members if we still

1 wanted to meet. But if we don't have any comments in  
2 the interim...

3 MR. O'NEILL: John, are we monitoring the  
4 comments from that posting? I mean, is that something  
5 we can go and look and say, Okay, we've got five  
6 comments to date or two comments to date?

7 MR. WOOD: I've had no comments on our  
8 website. And you haven't had any comments?

9 MS. DeNARDI: Nobody from the public.

10 MR. O'NEILL: We haven't had any.

11 MR. WOOD: We've been monitoring, but we've  
12 had no comments.

13 MS. DeNARDI: And I spoke to Butch also. We  
14 have a sign-in sheet up there. Nobody has been up.  
15 Nobody has been up.

16 MR. WOOD: So Beth, then you were talking  
17 about later October taking it to the county executive.

18 MS. DeNARDI: Yes. That will go to the  
19 county manager. And the ordinance is on the schedule  
20 for the 22nd for the county council. That has to go  
21 before county council.

22 If we get approval from that, that, in  
23 conjunction with the plan, will go out to the county  
24 manager and council for 60 days. If there are no  
25 changes, I give it back to you. It gets printed, and

1 then it goes out to the municipalities again for 90  
2 days. After that, if there's nothing, we're done.

3 MR. WOOD: Then we submit it to the state.

4 MS. DeNARDI: Correct. Well, the state has  
5 a copy now.

6 MR. WOOD: The state does have a copy now;  
7 so they do have a copy now.

8 MR. O'NEILL: It's 90, 60 and 90?

9 MS. DeNARDI: Yes.

10 MR. O'NEILL: That's an awful long time to  
11 allow people to -- I guess I'm assuming they're  
12 regulations.

13 MR. WOOD: Yes.

14 MS. DeNARDI: Yes, plus the type of plan  
15 that we did because we went back to the old way.

16 MR. O'NEILL: What would the difference have  
17 been under the previous plan process? What's the  
18 difference in that?

19 MS. DeNARDI: 30 days as opposed to 90 days.

20 MR. WOOD: So it's progressing. I think  
21 it's fairly consistent with what the previous plan  
22 was, which was reliance on the local landfills, the  
23 local private landfills. There really hasn't been a  
24 change with that.

25 We did add some transfer stations in that

1 were not in the plan previously. So we have added  
2 some transfer stations in.

3 Beth, do you want to talk about the county  
4 programs, how it ties in.

5 MS. DeNARDI: What I was going to offer was  
6 with the haulers. What we are going to do for next  
7 year -- first of all, it's at no cost to any of our  
8 haulers at all. What we're going to try to do is get  
9 a little bit more of a handle on who's handling  
10 municipal solid waste.

11 We have a sticker, and we would like the  
12 haulers to come into the office and fill out a very  
13 simple form. We will give them a sticker and ask them  
14 to put it on the side of their vehicle; any of them  
15 hauling municipal solid waste. It doesn't matter  
16 whether it's a town collecting it or if it's a major  
17 hauler. We just want to know who's hauling in Luzerne  
18 County when they come in by giving them a sticker. So  
19 if you drive by, you see they're hauling and they're  
20 collecting in Luzerne County.

21 It's also a better way to keep track of when  
22 they go to the landfills. Whomever is in our plan  
23 that has agreed, when they do go to the landfills,  
24 they could see, yes, they're from Luzerne County.  
25 And, again, it's at no cost to the haulers. All we

1 want them to do is come in and register so we know.

2 MR. WOOD: The key point is, it's a  
3 registration not a license.

4 MS. DeNARDI: Correct. No, we do not  
5 license. We do not license. The state licenses. We  
6 just want to know who's there.

7 MR. O'NEILL: It's a registration per  
8 vehicle.

9 MS. DeNARDI: Correct. That's pretty much  
10 the only change that we have.

11 MR. WOOD: Correct, yes.

12 MS. DeNARDI: The electronics recycling  
13 collections that the towns are doing will continue for  
14 next year. The paper shredding that the towns are  
15 doing will continue for next year. The recycling  
16 education that the towns are doing will continue next  
17 year.

18 Can we tweak some of those programs?  
19 Probably. If anyone has any suggestions, we're open  
20 for them.

21 We are in the process of trying to work on  
22 helping the towns with glass recycling because it has  
23 become such a problem. I am in the process of  
24 speaking with someone with recycling markets, and I  
25 have spoken to some of our towns who say that glass

1 has become a problem. I'm hoping that we could have a  
2 solution. I'm hoping that we could have a solution.  
3 If anyone has any suggestions and would like to email  
4 me, please do so. That's why the office is there, to  
5 help out.

6 MR. KASHATUS: Are you talking about  
7 windowpane glass and stuff like that? Or just the  
8 jars?

9 MR. O'NEILL: Yes, can you just describe  
10 what some of the issues are.

11 MS. DeNARDI: Bottles and jars of glass. A  
12 lot of the towns have gone to single-stream. When you  
13 put a glass jar in with a piece of cardboard, and it  
14 gets dumped in the back of a truck, it gets crushed.  
15 And when it gets crushed, it gets contaminated. When  
16 it gets contaminated and it gets dumped at the MRF, it  
17 gets thrown away.

18 The towns are getting charged an exorbitant  
19 amount because the recycling is coming in  
20 contaminated. Part of the contamination is the glass.

21 Now, if we could find a way to help them  
22 recycle the glass and keep it out of single-stream, in  
23 conjunction with our recycling education, which  
24 strongly stresses rinsing out the containers, we may  
25 be able to help the towns with some of their costs

1 with recycling. There's a lot of waste with glass.

2 There's a lot of contamination with glass. If we can  
3 pull it out and find a way to still recycle it but  
4 keep it out of the plastic and cardboard and continue  
5 with the clean, cleaning the recycling, I think it  
6 would be better for everybody.

7 Plus the weight. One of the other towns was  
8 telling me, 60,000 pounds in weight just from glass  
9 alone. If we can recycle that and pull that out of  
10 the waste stream, do you realize the savings that  
11 would be for a town. We've got to start somewhere.  
12 And, again, I'm hoping for suggestions.

13 MS. MILLER: Well, that's hard to do because  
14 I know we have plastic and the bottles together. But  
15 even just with glass, if they collect it and they dump  
16 it, isn't that still going to be cracked and smashed?

17 MS. DeNARDI: But all the glass is together.  
18 When a plastic bottle hits cardboard, it's not going  
19 to stick in it. When the glass gets broken, it gets  
20 imbedded in the cardboard, and they can't recycle it.  
21 That's called contamination.

22 MS. MILLER: Right.

23 MR. WOOD: When Beth referred to it  
24 contaminates it, she was referring to it contaminates  
25 the rest of the recyclables because the glass --

1 MS. MILLER: So the glass basically has to  
2 go by itself, not even with plastic bottles.

3 MR. O'NEILL: You basically have to  
4 eliminate single-stream. I mean, that's the only way  
5 to do it. Is there any other way? I mean, is that a  
6 foregone conclusion?

7 You don't have to necessarily stop a single  
8 pickup. What if you had two containers and had them  
9 pick up in one pickup so they didn't have to make  
10 another trip around the municipality, city, whatever  
11 the case may be. And, you know, even if it meant  
12 making sure they had two people on the back of the  
13 truck with compartments, at least they wouldn't have  
14 to make a second trip for the week for the same area.

15 MS. DeNARDI: Correct.

16 MR. WOOD: Dual-stream would be what you're  
17 referring to.

18 MR. FRATI: But you know how we operate in  
19 Wilkes-Barre? 13 packers go out every single day. We  
20 have five on municipal waste. We have five on  
21 recycling and single-stream, and three on yard waste.

22 The problem we have is we are geared up for  
23 single-stream. And for us to change that process to  
24 dual collection or strictly glass collection is going  
25 to cost a lot of money. You know, our trucks are --

1 we have a union shop. Our people pick up garbage,  
2 recycling and yard waste in the same day. It's hard  
3 to separate them.

4 The challenge we have, obviously, is having  
5 the residents participate in how to properly dispose  
6 of recyclable products. And, you know, we try to  
7 enforce as much as we can. We send out tens of  
8 thousands of dollars in fines. And we get no support  
9 from the magistrates, by the way. They throw them  
10 out; or they go from \$500 to \$50; or give us \$5 every  
11 other week, or something like that. So it's hard to  
12 control that.

13 I don't know what the solution here is. But  
14 if we are going to do this process, a city like  
15 Wilkes-Barre -- and I don't want to speak for  
16 Nanticoke, but I'm sure Nanticoke feels the same way.  
17 It's going to take years to ramp this up, to change  
18 it.

19 MS. DeNARDI: Perhaps I would like to sit  
20 with you and discuss all the options. I can honestly  
21 say that should a town, borough or city have a  
22 drop-off, it might be one avenue that could be  
23 explored at least for one commodity. And the  
24 additional items could still be put out with the  
25 container.

1 I think recycling education is very, very  
2 big. I think we need to get back to the basics with  
3 the residents. You had a wonderful program going,  
4 Butch, because, if I'm not mistaken, you had it in two  
5 different languages.

6 MR. FRATI: Three.

7 MS. DeNARDI: Three, which was really great.  
8 But I think that the recycling education, in addition  
9 to what it is you're going to be collecting, will make  
10 a big difference.

11 And as I said, I'd like to sit with you and  
12 discuss what options are there because I think that it  
13 can be done. I really do.

14 MR. FRATI: Okay. Well, I'm open to any  
15 ideas and suggestions you may have, and I would look  
16 forward to having that set up. And I'll even include  
17 our deputy director of public works to get involved in  
18 this.

19 MS. DeNARDI: Wonderful. Wonderful.

20 MR. WOOD: A lot of people went to single-  
21 stream because it was easier. It's cheaper than  
22 having two different collections.

23 MR. O'NEILL: What if with something like  
24 glass, you were able to partner with other communities  
25 or other municipalities and have that separate but

1 share the additional cost amongst five or six  
2 municipalities that are neighbors? And then keep your  
3 individual municipal single-stream everything but  
4 glass.

5 MS. DeNARDI: That's kind of what we're  
6 working towards, yes. The problem is while there's a  
7 demand for glass over here, we have all the glass up  
8 here. It's trying to meet in the middle.

9 And I have been talking with recycling  
10 markets; dealing with a company in Northampton County.  
11 And, again, the problem is who's going to come to the  
12 glass. Are we going to bring it down to them or are  
13 they going to come up to us? If they come up to us,  
14 is there going to be one drop-off? How do you make  
15 one drop-off, you know, fair to all the towns that are  
16 doing it?

17 Right now, we've got a lot of different  
18 things on the table, and it's just a matter of  
19 connecting the dots. I'm waiting to hear from  
20 recycling markets. And as I said to Ryan, we're  
21 trying to iron something out that it works for us and  
22 it works for them right now. They say they're crying  
23 for it. We have it.

24 I threw an email out to the towns, and I  
25 heard from about seven of them who said, yes, we

1 really want to do this. So we have the need, and  
 2 right now, we just have to come together.  
 3 MR. WOOD: Well, they're crying for the  
 4 glass, but they're not willing to pay for the glass.  
 5 MS. DeNARDI: There is that; there is that.  
 6 MR. WOOD: The value of glass is fairly low  
 7 right now.  
 8 MS. DeNARDI: But I think with COVID, you  
 9 know, because a lot of bars were closed. And people  
 10 couldn't get out; the people that need the glass don't  
 11 have it because people weren't out.  
 12 And, you know, to my knowledge, what they  
 13 had said to me was, We really want it if you have it.  
 14 And I said, Well, we really have it; let's sit down  
 15 and talk. And that's where we are.  
 16 MR. LONGFOOT: The brown glass is worth  
 17 about \$3 to \$4 a ton. They're not willing to pay  
 18 that? I mean, I'm not talking about the clear because  
 19 I think that's worth -- I think last time I looked, it  
 20 was about \$30 a ton.  
 21 But, I mean, \$3, \$4 a ton; that's too much?  
 22 If they need it, don't you think they would buy it?  
 23 It's really not that much money. It won't even pay  
 24 for the hauling.  
 25 MS. DeNARDI: And I think that's what it

1 comes down to. You know, are they going to get it  
 2 color separated? Are you going to bring it down to  
 3 them? Is there a place to weigh it? You know what I  
 4 mean? All these different factors.  
 5 Plus, you know, there's a lot more that goes  
 6 into the mix with this. What kind of commitment are  
 7 we talking about from the towns? How consistent is  
 8 the glass going to be?  
 9 I think in lieu of what we're all in with  
 10 this pandemic here, you know, it's going to be a  
 11 letters shaky for a little while until we can get  
 12 through this and move past it and, you know, kind of  
 13 bring things back to the way they were.  
 14 It would be nice if we had a solution for  
 15 glass. But right now, we're just working out all the  
 16 kinks of it is all I can say. And, again, I'm open  
 17 for suggestions.  
 18 MR. WOOD: The challenge isn't the \$3; the  
 19 challenge is the cost of transportation.  
 20 MR. LONGFOOT: Yes. That's what I would  
 21 think it would be, too.  
 22 MR. WOOD: So you put ten tons on a truck,  
 23 you get \$30. But it's going to take you a truck, a  
 24 driver; at least one hour down, at least an hour back.  
 25 So you're paying -- you know, there goes your \$30.

1 That's the problem.  
 2 MR. LONGFOOT: You're losing more than \$30.  
 3 Plus fuel, maintenance and all that.  
 4 MR. WOOD: Yes, exactly.  
 5 MS. DeNARDI: But you know what? There's a  
 6 solution out there. We'll find it.  
 7 MR. LONGFOOT: That's true.  
 8 MR. WOOD: The one thing I've noticed in how  
 9 Beth operates is -- and partly it's with who's here --  
 10 but this is good because of that interaction. And,  
 11 you know, the county doesn't control the collection;  
 12 it's all local. But Beth is an educational resource  
 13 to you. And that's the valuable part here in Luzerne  
 14 County. There are other counties that don't have that  
 15 as a resource that I've seen. So you can help keep  
 16 pushing, but they've got to pull you in also.  
 17 MS. DeNARDI: Well, you know what? There's  
 18 a solution out there, and we'll find it. We started  
 19 the recycling education last year, and it's a good  
 20 thing.  
 21 MR. WOOD: Yes.  
 22 MS. DeNARDI: And it needs to be done. And  
 23 it needs to be done. And, you know, the towns have  
 24 been wonderful when it came to the special  
 25 collections, the electronics and the paper-shredding.

1 And we'll continue with them. They could use the  
 2 tonnages that they get on the paper-shredding for  
 3 their annual report and also for grants. Because I  
 4 know of four grants. And if we need to tweak the  
 5 programs, we will.  
 6 MR. WOOD: One of the things is uniformity.  
 7 Because I know when we've gone through each of the  
 8 towns, they're not the same. There are slight  
 9 differences; or, in some cases, major differences  
 10 between the individual towns and the individual  
 11 boroughs, which makes it a little more difficult for a  
 12 centralized education program.  
 13 You really have to rely on the towns to  
 14 provide the education as opposed to the county to  
 15 provide the direct education.  
 16 MS. DeNARDI: Well, I think as long as  
 17 everybody sticks to the basics, they'll be okay  
 18 inasmuch as newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass  
 19 aluminum and steel. That covers it.  
 20 I think when you start to get into, you  
 21 know, additional items, I think the key is also going  
 22 back to the basics. Let's get back to being simple.  
 23 Okay.  
 24 And, again, I firmly believe that if we can  
 25 pull the glass out and put it separate, that's going

1 to clean up your recycling, and I think if all the  
2 towns can do that, you're going to see a great  
3 difference at material recovery facilities. And they  
4 will also see an additional savings.

5 I, for one, can't wait for our towns to go  
6 to a material recovery facility and call me and say,  
7 Guess what, Beth, we're not paying you anymore. But,  
8 again, I'm open for suggestions.

9 MR. KASHATUS: How about contamination of  
10 the glass itself not being cleaned? Is that a problem?

11 MS. DeNARDI: No, no. From what I'm told,  
12 the contamination rate is not that high when you just  
13 collect glass separately. That's one of the issues I  
14 brought up. And they said it's 5 percent, at best.  
15 And I said, well, is that going to be a problem. And  
16 they were, like, no, we haven't found it to be a  
17 problem anywhere else.

18 MR. KASHATUS: It might not be a problem,  
19 but I can see if you're going to advise the public or  
20 anything like that, or you're going to try to set up a  
21 policy in your local community, I think you should  
22 have people washing it. Emphasize to wash the stuff  
23 out before you throw it in the recycle bin.

24 MS. DeNARDI: That's where the recycling  
25 education comes in. Make sure the product is clean

1 when you put it out or if you drop it off.

2 MR. KASHATUS: I think in the long run, it  
3 will pay off.

4 MS. DeNARDI: Yeah.

5 MS. MILLER: What does it do with paper  
6 labels? Does it have an effect on that?

7 MS. DeNARDI: That's not here nor there.  
8 That will all get taken care of. It's more a matter  
9 of just right now, just pulling the glass away. First  
10 thing is first; you know what I mean? Then we take it  
11 to the next step after that.

12 MR. WOOD: Much of the glass that's reused  
13 is melted. So once you put it in a furnace, you're  
14 going to burn off paper. You're going to burn off  
15 food waste. And then if metal lids get mixed in,  
16 they'll get pulled out with a magnet. So that's  
17 fairly easy. You know, the metal is easy to pull out.

18 And then if they're remelting the glass,  
19 it's not a big deal. Or if they're using it as fill  
20 or aggregate, that's not a big deal either.

21 MR. KASHATUS: Why isn't sheet glass a  
22 problem? It just goes to the landfill? Sheet glass  
23 like windowpanes and stuff like that.

24 MR. WOOD: It's a different chemical than  
25 bottles and jars. And window glass, much of it is

1 treated.

2 MR. KASHATUS: There's no value to it?

3 MR. WOOD: If you had enough of it, there's  
4 value. But what you get is -- you wind up with a  
5 couple sheets of it, you know.

6 Yeah, it's got some value to you. But,  
7 again, you have to be able to fill the truck to get  
8 the truck somewhere where they need it. But if you  
9 look at the modern windows, they're vacuumed; they're  
10 two-paned; they're sealed.

11 MR. KASHATUS: Yeah, but that's not the  
12 windows you're throwing out. You're throwing out the  
13 old stuff that's 50 years old.

14 MR. WOOD: The old storm windows, yeah.  
15 But if you're throwing that out, you don't want that  
16 in your bottles and jars because it's not the same.  
17 It's not the same mix. It's not the same composition  
18 as the bottles and jars.

19 MR. KASHATUS: So that's going to the  
20 landfill?

21 MR. WOOD: If it goes to a MRF, they'll  
22 probably pull that out and send it to the landfill,  
23 yes.

24 MR. KASHATUS: Should that be put in as it  
25 is worth it to take it out from the garbage itself and

1 recycle that separately or not?

2 MS. DeNARDI: It would be nice to be able to  
3 recycle that. But, Tom, I think it goes back to --

4 MR. KASHATUS: But we're not doing that at  
5 this time; it's not a concern yet?

6 MS. DeNARDI: But I think it goes back to  
7 supply and demand. If we were in Northampton County,  
8 or a county -- I shouldn't even specify that. Just a  
9 county that has a place that wants the glass that's  
10 right around the corner, you could pretty much take  
11 anything to them. Unfortunately, as we get farther  
12 and farther up into the northeast, we have less of an  
13 opportunity to recycle it, which is why it ends up in  
14 the landfill.

15 MR. WOOD: I'm just trying to think of  
16 community-based programs. I'm not aware of any  
17 community-based programs that take windowpanes. The  
18 only people I've seen do it are commercial that handle  
19 a lot of windows because for them, it's worth it.

20 MS. DeNARDI: Or a re-store.

21 MR. WOOD: Right. Because then it's a reuse  
22 as opposed to --

23 MS. DeNARDI: I don't think we have any  
24 re-stores left around here.

25 MS. MILLER: We have one.

1 MR. LONGFOOT: There's one in Nanticoke, I  
2 think.

3 MR. KASHATUS: They're interested in windows  
4 that have, say, a windowpane that's got, like, maybe  
5 four or six panes in the window itself. They like to  
6 take that. There's a market for that.

7 MR. WOOD: Right. I guess the other thing  
8 to touch on is we do have contracts out with all of  
9 the facilities. So we received all of them back  
10 signed, so we do have the executed agreements for the  
11 disposal facilities.

12 MS. DeNARDI: Yes, we do.

13 MR. WOOD: So that's moving forward.

14 MS. DeNARDI: That has been secured. That  
15 has been secured.

16 MR. WOOD: Which is the ultimate goal of a  
17 solid waste plan, which is to provide long-term  
18 disposal, many years of disposal capacity. So that's  
19 been taken care of, and we've had good responses.

20 Anything else you can think of in your  
21 program?

22 MS. DeNARDI: We were talking about the tire  
23 collections. We had to postpone them because of the  
24 COVID-19 pandemic. We are planning to do them next  
25 year. Right now, we're going to watch the calendar.

1 I cannot give any dates, and I cannot tell you when it  
2 is going to be. All I can say is that right now,  
3 we're planning on doing this for 2021. We're just  
4 going to ride it out and see what happens.

5 All the rules will be the same. Please, if  
6 anybody is going to bring them down to us, call us and  
7 let us know what you're bringing. And nothing on the  
8 rim, and the usual specs. But until we get to next  
9 year, we're not going to know just exactly when we're  
10 going to be having it. But just so you know, we are  
11 hoping to have them next year.

12 MR. WOOD: I mean, the other thing is you  
13 really haven't had any impacts on your curbside  
14 programs. I mean, there have been some jurisdictions  
15 that have lost their markets completely and stopped  
16 their curbside programs through COVID.

17 MS. DeNARDI: While it may not have affected  
18 curbside, I could tell you that there are some  
19 drop-off programs that have stopped. Because, believe  
20 me, the calls have been coming to the office.

21 MR. WOOD: Okay. So you have had that  
22 change.

23 MS. DeNARDI: Yes, yes. I haven't heard of  
24 any with curbside that I know. And I know one in the  
25 lower part of Luzerne County that closed down

1 immediately. And, you know, people were calling me,  
2 and they were yelling at me, saying, you know, what  
3 are you doing. And I kept saying to them it's not me.  
4 You know, this is the town's decision; you need to  
5 speak to someone in the town.

6 And I can understand both sides of the  
7 argument; I truly can. So it has affected some, yes,  
8 but mostly at the drop-off. If it happened at the  
9 curbside, no one has notified me of it.

10 MR. WOOD: Right. That's all I had. Any  
11 other questions? Comments?

12 MS. DeNARDI: Suggestions? Anything.

13 MR. KASHATUS: I got a flat-screen TV. I  
14 took it apart. There's really not much motherboard in  
15 there. So I'm going to put the motherboard on the  
16 side and get rid of the other stuff with the garbage.  
17 All it is, is plastic and a piece of glass. What do  
18 you do with the motherboard?

19 MS. DeNARDI: As far as recycling it?

20 MR. KASHATUS: Do you know of anybody taking  
21 it?

22 MS. DeNARDI: You could take a motherboard  
23 to any of the scrap dealers in the area. If it's  
24 metal, they'll take it. That I can tell you.

25 MR. KASHATUS: It's a lot of solder and

1 stuff in it, too. First of all, I'm going to go to a  
2 place that sells TVs or something, and see if they'll  
3 take it.

4 MS. DeNARDI: I guess you can do that.

5 MS. MILLER: Best Buy.

6 MR. KASHATUS: Best Buy, somebody like that.

7 MS. DeNARDI: You could try. I don't know  
8 if they will.

9 MR. KASHATUS: Actually, I got a couple big  
10 boxes of them. If I can't find anybody to take it,  
11 I'm just going to hold onto it. You know, if I live  
12 long enough, I'll bury it.

13 MS. DeNARDI: Okay.

14 MS. MILLER: Don't say okay. You don't know  
15 what he's buried.

16 MR. KASHATUS: I didn't hear that.

17 MS. DeNARDI: Joke, joke.

18 MS. MILLER: Well, as far as screens, is  
19 there anything in there that shouldn't be in a  
20 landfill?

21 MS. DeNARDI: It should be recycled. I do  
22 not see the need to throw any electronic in a landfill  
23 or bury it. I think it should all be recycled.

24 MR. WOOD: Depending on the screen. And  
25 technology is continuing to change, but there is stuff

1 on the screen. There are metals on the screen that  
2 should be recycled and not go in the landfill. So  
3 besides the internal electronics...

4 MR. KASHATUS: There's not much in there;  
5 it's not like a computer.

6 MR. WOOD: Oh, there's not much in there,  
7 no. But the screen should be recycled. So, yeah, if  
8 you're looking at the back plastic, yeah, the  
9 supports. But the screen and then the circuitry.

10 MS. DeNARDI: Unfortunately, at the  
11 electronics collection, you're still seeing a lot more  
12 televisions. Right, Ryan?

13 MR. LONGFOOT: Just a few.

14 MS. MILLER: Middle Road; on Middle Road,  
15 there's a couple there.

16 MS. DeNARDI: Unfortunately, there are still  
17 a lot of them. And it's not just the flat screens  
18 that you see anymore. Ryan also could tell you about  
19 that.

20 MR. WOOD: They're just easier to handle.

21 MS. MILLER: There's a new one on Middle  
22 Road. A huge TV was just put there, maybe a day or  
23 two, along with a couch -- the whole living room they  
24 dropped. I guess they moved. We used to find them  
25 down the road, but now they're going up the road to

1 throw it.

2 MR. O'NEILL: Is that on Middle Road?

3 MS. MILLER: Yeah.

4 MR. O'NEILL: We get calls for that road,  
5 right off of Middle Road.

6 MS. MILLER: He's talking about trash on  
7 Middle Road in the cul-de-sac. And I can't remember  
8 the name of that street. They would dump in that one  
9 area. And I know we've cleaned that up a number of  
10 times, and neighbors always complained, and Hanover  
11 Township is always out there.

12 But I think they may have put cameras out  
13 there; I'm not sure. So now it's right on Middle Road  
14 they dumped it, right down around the corner. I don't  
15 know what circle it is.

16 MR. KASHATUS: Not on the new road, right?

17 MS. MILLER: Right by the industrial park,  
18 down a couple blocks where you turn into the  
19 industrial park; right in that area where the golf  
20 course is. Somewhere in that area I saw a living room  
21 today.

22 Now, did you say something about the  
23 transfer stations? How many are in Luzerne County,  
24 transfer stations?

25 MS. DeNARDI: One. Waste production,

1 recycling and transfer; Hanover Township, yes. And we  
2 have the one in Tamaqua and...

3 MR. WOOD: Columbia.

4 MS. DeNARDI: Columbia, yes.

5 MR. KASHATUS: How important are they in the  
6 program, the transfer stations, since there's only one  
7 in Luzerne County? Do you really need a transfer  
8 station?

9 MR. WOOD: It helps us understand where the  
10 waste is and where the waste is going; where they're  
11 taking it to. So that's why we like having it under  
12 contract.

13 MR. KASHATUS: What do they do different  
14 than Waste Management?

15 MR. WOOD: The only thing a transfer station  
16 does is take the small collection trucks and put it in  
17 a tractor trailer. And then they take it to the  
18 landfill. That's the only difference. It's just a  
19 transportation savings as opposed to having the  
20 collection trucks drive all the way to the landfill.  
21 It's just cheaper for them to...

22 MR. KASHATUS: They charge pretty good then.

23 MS. DeNARDI: Sometimes it's more  
24 convenient, Tom, for towns to go there.

25 MR. KASHATUS: Probably, right. For an

1 individual, it's more convenient.

2 MS. DeNARDI: Correct, than driving to a  
3 landfill. I know that we do have some towns that will  
4 go to the transfer station because it's more feasible  
5 for them than driving to either down below or...

6 MR. KASHATUS: Are the municipalities going  
7 to transfer stations?

8 MS. DeNARDI: Yes. Because, again, it's  
9 more of a matter of convenience as opposed to going to  
10 Dunmore, or, you know, down in Schuylkill County. But  
11 they serve a purpose; they do serve a purpose.

12 MR. FRATI: We use them a lot.

13 MS. DeNARDI: Do you use the transfer station?

14 MR. FRATI: Especially on the holidays where  
15 we have such a large collection.

16 MR. O'NEILL: So I'm assuming they're a  
17 little more expensive, but you're paying for the  
18 convenience.

19 MR. FRATI: It's worth it. If we won't get  
20 to the landfill in time to get the truck back for the  
21 next day, so we don't do that. So it's worth a couple  
22 of bucks extra.

23 MR. O'NEILL: Exactly. If your costs are  
24 less, it's a win/win actually.

25 MR. WOOD: Yeah. And with a transfer

1 station, you're on a paved road the whole time. If  
2 you go in the landfill, if the weather is bad, you get  
3 stuck. If your truck gets stuck, you have to get it  
4 drug out. It's takes much longer.

5 And you're right. It depends, but the  
6 waiting times may be less in the transfer station than  
7 the landfill.

8 MR. FRATI: Yes. We send half the trucks  
9 not just around the holidays. Even sometimes during  
10 COVID, when it was at its peak, there was so much  
11 municipal waste and solid waste and recycling. We  
12 just couldn't handle it. The landfill was paying  
13 short, under hours at that time, so we had no choice.  
14 But it's much more convenient; sometimes it's too  
15 convenient, but we use them a lot. I'm glad they're  
16 there.

17 MR. O'NEILL: Quick question, Butch; I'm  
18 just asking the question. But based on the  
19 convenience, and, I don't know, but if it's the total  
20 cost, is it less expensive for you in the long run as  
21 far as saving gas and saving mileage or not?

22 MR. FRATI: No, it's not really. It's  
23 better -- honestly, it's quite cheaper if we go to the  
24 landfill.

25 MR. O'NEILL: Okay. Even when you take into

1 consideration all the factors of time?

2 MR. FRATI: Yes, and the overtime. And the  
3 fact that you're not going to have a clean truck in  
4 the morning to start collections. That we did a  
5 little bit, and it's nice to have. We use it, but  
6 it's far better to take it to the landfill.

7 MR. O'NEILL: Okay.

8 MR. WOOD: And you have the flexibility, if  
9 you're the first truck at the landfill -- so say  
10 there's a long queue at the landfill, it's going to  
11 take you a half hour or an hour to unload. Then you  
12 can change and say, okay, we'll go to the transfer  
13 station. We'll pay a little bit more, but we know  
14 we'll get the truck back so the guys can do two routes  
15 in a day versus sitting at the landfill. Then you're  
16 paying -- like you said, then you're into overtime or  
17 not finishing a route.

18 MR. O'NEILL: How many trips per day on  
19 average does one of your packers do? How many trips  
20 to the landfill?

21 MR. FRATI: We don't quite get -- I'd say  
22 anywhere between six and eight a day, depends on the  
23 day we're collecting.

24 MR. O'NEILL: Per truck?

25 MR. FRATI: No, total. We have five trucks

1 out on municipal waste; the rest on recycling.

2 MR. O'NEILL: So it's, like, one trip a day  
3 per a truck, on average?

4 MR. FRATI: Yeah. And sometimes two. Like,  
5 for example, today and tomorrow, they're heavy days;  
6 we'll have to make two runs.

7 Typically, we have our municipal waste off  
8 the street by 1:00 in the afternoon, and we do five  
9 areas every week. Monday is a very light day, and  
10 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday -- all  
11 different areas.

12 MR. O'NEILL: You go to the landfill, that's  
13 got to be what? About an hour, hour and 15 minutes?

14 MR. FRATI: Two hours sometimes. But I  
15 gotta tell you, Keystone is great. They get us in and  
16 get us out pretty quickly. But that's about all we  
17 really can get. Especially now, I think they're  
18 working more hours than they did before. But when it  
19 was noon at one point...

20 MR. O'NEILL: So it's an hour and 15 minutes  
21 up and back?

22 MR. FRATI: Yes.

23 MR. O'NEILL: That's not bad. Has anybody  
24 come up with a solution -- I always joke about it  
25 because I always see, you know, the haulers from

1 throughout the area going to the landfill. And I  
2 really didn't know how many trips they took. I  
3 assumed it was a minimum of one, if not, two or three,  
4 depending. And, you know, obviously, typically a  
5 garbage truck has three employees. So every time I  
6 see a truck heading up the highway, they have three  
7 guys sitting in the front of the cab.

8 MR. FRATI: Not ours.

9 MR. O'NEILL: And I've often said to myself,  
10 there's gotta be a way that you don't have two guys  
11 sitting there doing nothing for an hour and a half a  
12 day or, if not, more.

13 MR. LONGFOOT: You could have someone run  
14 the trucks up while the guys keep working.

15 MR. O'NEILL: Well, that's what I was  
16 thinking. But I very rarely see that because every  
17 time I seen them on the highway, there's three guys in  
18 the truck. And I'm not talking about yours or...

19 MR. LONGFOOT: Oh, no. But a lot of times,  
20 when the guys are done, they're done, though. I mean,  
21 if they're packed, their truck is done. They're going  
22 to the landfill, and sometimes they're done. They're  
23 done, so they're going to empty the truck and get  
24 ready for the next day. At least that's how it works  
25 for us.

1 MR. FRATI: In our situation, you know,  
2 they're not just collecting municipal waste and  
3 recycling. They're patching streets and fixing street  
4 signs. So the driver -- the only time you'll see  
5 another person is if he's in training or if he sneaks  
6 in.

7 MR. O'NEILL: Okay.

8 MR. WOOD: People have tried to do that  
9 where you shuttle -- you have your crew. And then  
10 when the truck is full, they drop the people off for a  
11 another route. But it never works out the same every  
12 day. And then you've got people that you're dropping  
13 off or, oh, gee, I'll take you back to the yard. But  
14 then by the time they get back to the yard and back to  
15 the landfill...

16 MR. O'NEILL: I mean, obviously, unions are  
17 always an issue. But even if you have other duties,  
18 like you said, where they could put in street signs.  
19 There's always stuff to do.

20 MR. WOOD: It's a challenge of the industry,  
21 yeah.

22 Any other questions? Any other discussion?  
23 I suggest we adjourn. I'll hang out till 6:00 o'clock  
24 just in case anyone shows up at the last minute.

25 MS. DeNARDI: Okay.

1                   MR. WOOD: I do want to thank you for coming  
2 out tonight. I do want to thank you for your time  
3 serving on the SWAC committee.

4                   MS. DeNARDI: Excuse me. Everybody signed  
5 the sheet except for me; right?

6                   MR. WOOD: And me.

7                   So thank you for your input on the plan, and  
8 thank you for showing up tonight.

9                   MR. O'NEILL: Thanks, John. We're going to  
10 follow up with everyone as to whether or not,  
11 obviously, if we decide the need to have a followup  
12 meeting.

13                   MR. WOOD: Okay.

14                   (Meeting concluded at 5:50 p.m.)

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